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of the Schuylkill River above the Spring Garden Water Works, Philadelphia, a dozen or more rhizopods of varying sizes, apparently quite motionless, and, by direct illumination, resembling the familiar forms of *Actinophrys* or *Actinosphaerium*.

When removed to a compressorium and examined by transmitted light, however, entirely different characteristics were discovered. An outer surface or test was composed of infinite numbers of minute, smooth, curved spicules, gathered somewhat irregularly into radial, acuminate, conical groups, giving to the mass very nearly the appearance of the seed-balls of the sweet-gum tree, *Liquidamber styraciflua*. Within the cavity of this spicular envelope, was seen a spherical protoplasmic body, perhaps one-third of the diameter of the outer test, composed of a multitude of granuliferous cells and a single non-central nucleus. From this "body," many pseudopodal filaments were thrown out through the interstices amongst the spicules, in direct radial lines, to a distance exceeding the height of the spicular cones. They were not constant, however, and at intervals none could be discovered. To test the character of the spiculæ, one individual was treated with strong nitric acid and afterwards mounted in balsam. The protoplasmic body was of course destroyed, but the spicules remained, showing them to be, in all probability, composed of siliceous material.

The speaker was at first inclined to class this rhizopod with the genus *Acanthocystis*, but further examination convinced him that it was more probably allied to *Raphidiophrys*, and a still further examination of F. E. Schultze's papers on the Rhizopodæ warrants its complete identification with his *Raphidiophrys pallida*. In his recent monograph upon this subject, Professor Leidy has referred to this species his sketch of a single individual likewise collected, some years ago, in the Schuylkill River. These appear to be the only instances in which it has been identified on this continent. Its habit of lying close against a supporting surface, seldom or never freely swimming, easily distinguishes it from other familiar Heliozoans.

*Note on the Intelligence of a Cricket parasitised by a Gordius.*

—Dr. HENRY C. McCook said that some remarks upon the habits of the cricket published by him, had called forth an interesting communication from Mrs. C. W. Conger, of Groton, New York, the substance of which is as follows :—

"Some twenty-four years ago, my husband and myself took possession of a large old frame house on a farm which was a homestead for the largest, blackest, and most musical of the cricket kind. Early in the fall, I began to be annoyed by finding one or more hair snakes in the water-pail. Though I knew that there positively was nothing of the kind in the pail when it came in, yet a few minutes or an hour generally provided us with a more or less lively specimen. I had a horror of them, because

of the dread lest the children should imbibe one with their frequent nips of the water, so I sat down, one warm afternoon, to watch the pail, to try to learn how the snakes came. In about ten minutes I saw a particularly plethoric cricket mount upon the edge of the pail, and, after some uneasy movements, bring the tip of the abdomen just beneath the water, and, with a few violent throes, expel a black mass, which fell slowly through the water, and before it reached the bottom resolved itself into one of the worms. The cricket seemed exhausted by the horrid birth, and did not find strength to draw itself up on the edge of the pail for about eight minutes, and when it finally did so, it tumbled to the floor and crawled off in a very rheumatic manner. After this discovery, we used to amuse leisure hours by watching like operations until frost killed the crickets. I sometimes would crush large crickets, generally with the result that a tightly-coiled snake would be thrust out of a rupture just above the tip of the abdomen; but, whether the snake was not sufficiently developed, or because of its needing water rather than air to vitalize it, none of the snakes so produced showed any signs of life."

The water snake alluded to is, of course, a species of our common *Gordius*, the same probably as that described, a number of years ago, by our distinguished President, Prof. Jos. Leidy. The fact that this animal is parasitic within the grasshopper, the speaker had himself observed; it has been said also to be parasitic within spiders, and doubtless has for its host many of the orthopterous genera. The point of greatest interest in the letter, Dr. McCook thought, is the fact that the crickets had evidently learned that the parasite infesting them required the water in order to make its egress, and had deliberately sought the suitable place and assumed the proper position (by inserting the abdomen beneath the surface of the water), necessary to insure that egress. It is a curious physiological question: how did the cricket obtain this knowledge? And, the knowledge having been obtained, the cricket's subsequent behavior presents an interesting fact in the study of insect intelligence.

*A New Parasitic Insect upon Spider Eggs.*—Dr. McCook further stated that he had received, through Mr. F. M. Webster (October, 1884), from Oxford, Indiana, a parasitised spider cocoon (evidently of some saltigrade species), apparently that of *Attus audax*. The cocoon contained within the outer flossy case about eighty cells and a number of mature black hymenopterous insects, about one-eighth of an inch long. The cells were ovoid, gray, blackish at the closed end, probably from excretions of the enclosed larvæ. One end was cut open, showing where the insect had escaped. With the exception of a few hard, dried, yellowish brown examples, all the eggs of the spider had disappeared. The specimens were sent to Mr. L. O. Howard, of the Bureau of